

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name White Hall  
other names/site number Whitehall Plantation; Whitehall Tavern; #047-0041

2. Location

street & number 3200 Rochambeau Road not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Toano vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county James City code 195 zip code 23168

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Classification

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** 0

**Name of related multiple property listing** (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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## 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Dwelling  
Commercial Tavern

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Dwelling

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## 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic/Federal  
Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
roof Asphalt shingles  
walls Weatherboards on studs  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Social History

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1805-1935 (last historic additions)

**Significant Dates** 1800; c.1915; .c 1935

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
☒ Other

Name of repository: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 42 acres

### UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	340329	4141372	B	18	340634	4141151	C	18	340456	4140821
D	18	340268	4140872	E	18	340050	4141146				

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark R. Wenger  
organization Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker, Architects date 7/12/06  
street & number 3302 Craggy Oak Court, Suite 101 telephone 757-221-0713  
city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23188

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bert Geddy  
street & number 8297 Richmond Road telephone 757-566-0234  
city or town Toano state VA zip code 23168-9205

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 1**

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Architectural Description

Summary

The property known today as Whitehall Plantation stands about 75 yards east of the point where VA Route 30 and US Route 60 intersect, near Toano in James City County. The main house fronts southwest toward Route 30, the front shaded by three large trees--a walnut and two magnolias. Built for William Geddy in 1805-06, the house remained largely unaltered until early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when new additions and alterations began to transform the dwelling's appearance. The plan and interior appointments exemplify important changes in Virginia's domestic buildings at that time, and together with its complement of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century outbuildings, Whitehall represents more than two centuries of nearly continuous occupation by the Geddy family.

Main House - Contributing

The original house is a two-story, double-pile frame structure with a gable roof. It is laid out on a side-passage plan having two exterior brick chimneys, each with single weatherings. The building stands on a brick foundation. The front façade exhibits three bays on the ground floor but only two bays above. Here and on the other façades, all windows display 6/6 sash. The southeast or passage-side façade exhibits a one window at the first-floor level, three at the second, and two in the garret. On opposite façade, all three levels exhibit two bays between the chimneys. One additional ground-floor window stands behind the rear chimney. The original rear façade is largely obscured by a modern, two-story wing.

A modern, one-story, three-bay porch with a hipped roof, battered wooden columns, and pierced skirting of textured brick extends across the front of the building. Opposite the front door a pair of concrete steps ascends to this porch from the yard.

In the rear is a two-story wing and porch, the latter of which is now closed in. A pair of stone steps with brick cheek walls and concrete copings provides access to this enclosed porch from the side yard. The foundation of the wing, porch and steps is composed of smooth red bricks. At the main house, these bricks continue to the north corner, where a pair of sloping doors, both modern, encloses the original cellar entry.

All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles and the walls with beaded weatherboards. The simple cornice is composed of a crown molding, fascia, soffit and bed molding. At the corners, double corner boards are separated by a quarter-round molding.

Two ground-floor window frames and sash on the front façade, two garret window frames on the chimney façade, and the chimneys themselves are all or partly original. Otherwise, all exterior elements date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Outbuildings

Seven outbuildings and one ruinous farm structure stand behind the main house, deployed around the perimeter of a large paddock. There are also two wells in the house yard.

Workshop/Storage Building - Contributing

Nearest the house is an unheated outbuilding which has served for storage and as a workshop. It is a one-story, single-pile frame structure with a gable roof, approximately 24' x 10' in plan, having two rooms, each served by a doorway and a window on the front façade. It is covered with beaded weatherboards and asphalt shingles. In the front two doors serve two separate spaces. In the right room two windows flank the doorway. The room on the left has only a doorway. The exterior finishes match 1930s trim of the house, and the window trim matches that of the house.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 2**

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Architectural Description – (continued)

Privy - Contributing

Behind this outbuilding is a 20<sup>th</sup>-century privy. The building is composed of wire-nailed, circular-sawn material, with board-and-batten siding. It seems to have served the family and perhaps domestic servants.

Garage - Contributing

Northeast of the workshop and adjoining the rear yard is a framed garage. The building probably dates to the 1930s when the use of automobiles was becoming widespread in the region. As in the case of the workshop, the roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the walls are clad with beaded weatherboards, all matching those of the house. In this way the outbuildings close to and serving the main house were distinguished from the farm buildings. There is no interior finish except for flush boarding low down on the back wall.

Barn/Stable - Contributing

The SE corner of the paddock is a large, 46 x 24 structure on a brick and concrete foundation. The lower level has been partitioned at different times into of stalls. Those at the southeastern end appear to be original. The stalls at the opposite end appear to be later and were certainly modified in recent years. From a wide aisle at the northeastern end, broad doorways opened into the pasture behind, or the paddock in front. The gambrel roof, providing for hay storage on the upper level, is covered with ribbed sheet metal. The walls are clad with wooden novelty siding, which suggests an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century date for the stable alterations. A modern shed on this end of the building is covered with corrugated sheet metal and clad with plywood.

Corn Crib - Non-contributing

Near the barn, situated on the rear perimeter of the paddock, a building, now collapsed, stood on terra cotta pipes, set upright to serve as piers. Only the circular-sawn, wire-nailed floor joists and flooring of this building remain intact. The structure reportedly functioned as a corn crib and exhibited splayed construction typical of this building type. The gable-end door of this structure faced the house.

Frame Ruins - Non-contributing

Between the corncrib and the poultry house are ruins of another wood frame outbuilding.

Poultry House - Non-contributing

At the north corner of the paddock stood a frame, shed-roof structure, 8' x 10' in plan, probably dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This appears to have served as a poultry house. The roof is covered with ribbed sheet metal and the walls with plain horizontal siding.

Poultry Shed - Non-contributing

At the northeastern extremity of the paddock stands a poultry shed on a concrete foundation. This has a long shed roof with a short, opposing front slope to shelter the front. This roof is covered with ribbed sheet metal and the walls with plain horizontal weatherboards. At some point, the framing of the front wall was removed and the altered structure became a shelter for horses.

Wells - 2 - Non-contributing

In the side yard are two wells, one with a square wellhead of planks, early 20<sup>th</sup> century in date, and one with a cylindrical concrete cover at ground level. This latter enclosure is modern.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 3**

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Architectural Description – (continued)

Analysis – Main House

Orientation

The present stair, unquestionably a first-period feature, raises questions concerning the original orientation of the house. It appears however, that the present house has faced what is now Route 60 at least since 1863, when Confederate engineers under Jeremy Francis Gilmer mapped the area. Indeed, the original drive seems to have extended beyond Route 30, all the way to 60. The axis of this extended drive persists as the edge of a wooded area southeast of the present US 60/VA 30 intersection.

Original Plan

Whitehall's side-passage arrangement is somewhat unusual in that the stair faces the rear of the house—a plan more often encountered in urban houses. However, there can be little doubt that what is now the front of the house sometime has always been such--the present front room is significantly larger than the other space and it has the better surbase. The exterior doors at either end of the passage probably stood more or less in their present situations.

Physical evidence in the ground-floor rooms and on sides of the chimneys shows that there was once a two-story pent between these chimneys, accessible from both floors. Thus, the plans of the first and second floors were more or less congruent.

Closets have been added in both third-floor rooms, and possibly the room at the top of the stair was once open to the stair. The windows remain in their original locations.

Original Finishes and Elements – Exterior

Original weather boards survive on the gable above the weatherings of the chimneys, and the casings of the two gable windows here also appear to be early as well. The front chimney is original up to a point about five courses above the base of the stack. Beyond that point, the stack seems to be the product of an early rebuilding. The scored mortar joints distinguish this chimney as the earlier of the two. The rear chimney embodies three distinct periods of construction. The lower half below the weatherings is early, though perhaps not original. The upper half seems to date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the stack is modern. The original front steps have been moved to the side yard where they now serve the enclosed porch adjoining the wing.

Original Finishes - Interior

Ground Floor – Passage

The lower rooms retain much early fabric. In the lower passage the stair, the face-nailed pine floors, and three raised-panel doors—those to the front room, to the back room and to the cellar--are all original. Each of these doors is adorned with six raised panels, having molded rails and stiles on the front face. Each is plain on the reverse face. Also original is the trim of the doorways to the back room and to the cellar stair. On the partition between the passage and back room, a section of the original base, with molded upper edge, base remains *in situ* between the doorway to the back room and that to the back porch.

The stair is entirely original. The newels and railings of the closed-string stair are massively proportioned, each measuring 4 ¼" broad. The upper edge of the double-architrave stringer is adorned with a cyma-reversa/astragal backband and capped with a symmetrically molded member on which the turned balusters stand. These balusters are of vigorous, unconventional design, and most exhibit riven surface

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 4**

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Architectural Description – (continued)

on the dies at either end. The massive railings are fashioned in a standard profile, and the ends of these members are tenoned into the newels and pegged. From the first landing, the newel for the lower flight extends downward to the first floor where it forms the corner of the present cellar stair enclosure.

Ground-Floor – Front Room

The face-nailed floors of this space are entirely original. The chimneypiece is largely original, as well, though extensions were added to each end when the fireplace was refaced with new brick, making it necessary to pull the fireplace treatment away from the wall.

The original surbase also remains, though a portion was covered over or perhaps destroyed by the installation of a closet or duct chase in one corner of the room. Below this surbase is a flush board wainscot, and below that is a broad base adorned on its upper edge with a cyma molding.

The window frames and 6/6 sash are all original on the front wall, though the trim is modern. The door and trim to the back room are original.

Ground Floor – Back Room

Much of the original finish in this room has disappeared. Portions of the surbase appear to be original. The doors to the passage and to the front room are also original. The floor was not accessible, but may be original, as well.

Second Floor - Passage

Stair – newels, railings, balusters, stringers, pendants and skirts are all original. Modern shoring has been installed between the newels of the upper and lower landings.

The original doors and trim remain for all doorways early doorways in the old house. The door for the opening between the front and back rooms is stored in the closet that serves the front room.

The floors were not accessible, being entirely covered with carpet, but it is likely that some of the original flooring survives in these upper rooms.

Second Floor - Front Room

Original features include the flooring, and the chimneypiece, with its broad architraves, deep frieze, flush panel, and dentiled cornice. The brick hearth and surround are modern. The original wainscot, composed of a single board, also remains intact except in the closet by the passage doorway and also under the window by the fireplace, where later vertical sheathing filled in the original doorway to the pent. This wainscot retains its original base and dentiled surbase. All door trim is original, and the original six-panel door remains in place at the passage doorway. That for the doorway to the back room is stored in the closet by the passage doorway. The flooring was not visible, but is likely to be original.

Second Floor - Back Room

The chimneypiece, an unusually tall example, adorned with plinths and with a strangely shortened cornice/shelf, is entirely original, though the brick hearth and surround are modern. The simple casings of the doorways to the front room and passage are original. As noted earlier, the door for the latter opening is stored in the closet of the front room. The flooring was not visible, but is likely to be original.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 5**

---

Architectural Description – (continued)

Third Floor

The third floor appears to have been a finished space from the beginning, as the robustly detailed main stair carries up to that level without interruption. The upper landing and the flight that ascends from it to the third floor are original, as are the newels, railings, and, balusters, stringers, tread and risers. The doorway at the top of the stair is original, as are the casings, the H-L hinges, and the six-panel door itself.

Architectural Chronology

The house remained largely unaltered until early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when new additions and alterations began to transform the dwelling's appearance:

c. 1915

A raised wooden porch was added across the front of the house. The tapestry brick foundation was pierced to ventilate the crawl space below. The south corner of the house foundation had deteriorated badly by this time and was rebuilt using the same textured brick. It seems that the exterior doorways and some of the windows were re-trimmed at this time, as well. These reworked openings are distinguished by the absence of backbands and by the existence of a coping member on top. Among the windows exhibiting this treatment are all those between the chimneys on the two main floors. Physical evidence indicates that there was once a two-story pent between these chimneys. Clearly, the pent was removed in concert with the c.1915 work, and the doorways from the upper rooms converted to windows.

Behind the house, a Work Shop/Storage Building was erected, with windows matching the new work of the house. The barn may also have been built during this period, though it could be earlier. Because it was not a domestic building, no pains were taken to make its detailing conform to exterior finishing of the house.

c. 1935

The present, two-story wing, one room deep, and a single-story, hip-roofed porch were added (The original steps were relocated in the side yard at this time to serve the new porch. Holes for the original front railing are visible at the right ends on these steps). The wing provided space for a kitchen below and for a heated living space which communicated directly with the main house. At the opposite end of this space a stair down to the porch and a brick flue, which served a cook stove below and a heating stove above.

The new addition construction was clad in beaded weatherboards and the window frames were adorned with classically inspired trim—perhaps reflecting the influence of the Williamsburg restoration. The earlier portion of the house and two outbuildings were recovered in the same material. One of these was a new garage, reflecting the growing in importance of the automobile at the time.

c. 1966

Bathrooms were first added to the house at this time. Before this, the privy behind the shop/storage served the purpose. In concert with construction of these bathrooms, new, square-edge based boards were installed in various locations, including the third floor, where all plaster was removed and replaced with drywall. Perhaps it was at this time that present board supports were added between the first and second landings of the stair.

c. 1979

The rear porch was enclosed at this time, the upstairs bath was updated, casework was added on the second floor, and new closets were added on all three floors. Plywood paneling in the front, ground-floor room and in the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section** 8 **Page** 6

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**Statement of Significance**

Built For William Geddy in 1805-06, White Hall, together with its complement of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century outbuildings, represents more than two centuries of nearly continuous occupation by the Geddy family, prominent in the early history of Williamsburg though the activities of blacksmith William Geddy and his son, silversmith James Geddy. William Geddy's social standing was that of an upper middling planter, and his dwelling represents the improving quality of housing for all Virginians during the early republican period. The property is therefore nominated for local significance under National Criterion A for Social History as connected with the Geddy family.

The property is also locally significant under National Criterion C for its architecture from 1805 until the last historic additions were made to the main house in 1935. The plan and interior appointments exemplify important changes in Virginia's domestic buildings at that time. The full, two-story volume of the house with its upper-floor chambers, and the rearward orientation of its stair both expressed a growing emphasis on domestic privacy at that time, while the old-fashioned stair details demonstrated the continued conservatism of rural carpenters' work.

**Historical Background**

White Hall, the traditional home of the Geddys, is located upon land that has been in the family's hands almost continuously since the 1780s. The vestry records of Blisland Parish, which included western James City County, reveal that the Geddy family had commenced residing there prior to 1761. James City County land tax rolls indicate that by 1789 William Geddy had acquired the 200 acres that in time became the family's home tract. Personal property tax rolls suggest that Geddy, who was in possession of several adult slaves, was a member of the upper middle class. At his death, around 1803, his property passed to his son and namesake, William Geddy Jr., who was credited with it in 1805. He appears to have added structural improvements to the property, the value of which rose by 1806. It was likely during that interval (1805-1806) that White Hall was built. Personal property tax rolls for 1804 and 1805 indicate that William Geddy purchased an ordinary license, the only time he did so. Precisely where he conducted business is uncertain. Perhaps White Hall's distance from the main road and its proximity to a well known tavern, which was less than a mile away, discouraged Geddy's interest in tavern-keeping. William Geddy Jr. eventually moved to New Kent County, where he was residing at the time of his death in 1816. From then until 1829, his acreage was attributed to his estate. This raises the possibility that he was survived by a widow who had life rights in the property or by minor children (James City County Land Tax Lists 1782-1820; Personal Property Tax Lists 1782-1820).

In 1820, when Virginia's tax commissioners commenced assigning an estimated value to the aggregate of structural improvements that were on a landowner's property, buildings worth \$800 stood on the 340 ¼ acres that were part of William Geddy's estate. By 1822, the decedent's son, Edward B. Geddy, had transferred 200 acres to the Slaters, who conveyed it to Nathaniel Lindsey; that portion of the property which lacked improvements, was identified as part of the late William Geddy's estate. At that point the tax commission began crediting William Geddy's estate with 140 ¼ acres that had \$750 worth of improvements. The house tract remained intact through 1829, at which point it came into the hands of Allen Lindsey, to whom it was transferred by William Brown, the late William Geddy's administrator. By that time, Lindsey had come into the 200 acres formerly belonging to Nathaniel Lindsey, thereby reconstituting the late William Geddy's 340 acre estate (James City County Land Tax Lists 1820-1830).

Allen Lindsey died within two years of acquiring the White Hall tract, which from 1833 through 1846 was attributed to his estate. The value of the property's improvements dwindled, probably on account of deterioration, and from 1840 on, the buildings' aggregate value was only \$500. Personal property tax rolls reveal that Allen Lindsey was a slaveholder and a member of the upper middle class, whose material wealth exceeded that of the Geddys and included taxable luxury items (James City County Land Tax Lists 1833-1846; Personal Property Tax Lists 1815-1846).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section**   8   **Page**   7  

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Historical Background (continued)

Between 1846 and the time of the tax assessor's 1847 visit, George E. Geddy acquired the late Allen Lindsey's 375 16/25 acre estate. The value of the buildings on the property, identified in 1851 as White Hall, rose from \$500 in 1850 to \$1,200 in 1851. This occurred less than a decade after George E. Geddy married Lucy Elizabeth Henley, Richardson Henley's daughter. White Hall's size and the value of its structural improvements remained constant through 1861 (James City County Land Tax Lists 1846-1861).

Maps made by Confederate cartographers in 1863 and 1864 show the house known as White Hall, attributing it to "Captain Geddy." The Geddy home, situated where it overlooked the road that linked Williamsburg to the New Kent County seat and points beyond, and a lesser road that led toward the York River, was a position by which both Union and Confederate troops marched on their way to Richmond, the Confederate capital. A narrative written by Union Army veteran and provost marshal David Cronin suggests that White Hall's position at a crossroads, on a slight rise, made it an important site for the gathering and distribution of intelligence. He said that when he visited the house, three ladies were present, an elderly matron and two young women. According to the older woman, the family had been robbed of its cooking utensils the year before when Union troops passed through. There were few slaves on the premises, those who were very young or very old, as the middle-aged ones had left to become "contrabands" (Cronin [1862-1865]). George E. Geddy, a captain in the James City County cavalry, Company H, 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, was then away at war (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 1, 1896).

In 1884, when George E. Geddy made his will, which was proved in 1887, he left White Hall and virtually all of his real and personal estate to his wife, Lucy E. Henley Geddy, who had the right to dispose of it at her discretion. The testator said that he considered the bequest repayment for the money that had come to him through their marriage. An inventory of the late George E. Geddy's estate, prepared in 1887, reveals that White Hall was a working farm whose livestock included horses, cattle, and swine. The decedent's household furnishings were modest but ample as was his agricultural equipment (James City County Will Book 2:1, 7-8).

Lucy E. Geddy stayed on at White Hall and on August 18, 1903, when she prepared her will, referred to it as the house tract "on which I now reside." She left that portion of her real estate to her son, Richardson B. Geddy and instructed her executors to sell the remainder of her realty, distributing the proceeds among her other children. On March 29, 1904, Mrs. Geddy added a codicil to her will, noting that she had just sold White Hall to her son, Richardson B. Geddy. That transaction, which occurred on March 11, 1904, made reference to the farm's physical boundaries, one of which lines passed close to an "old stable" then on the property (James City County Will Book 2:412; Deed Book 9:256-257). Richardson B. Geddy and his wife, Mary Lucille, promptly mortgaged White Hall, using it as collateral when securing their loan. They secured a deed of release within five years time (James City County Deed Book 9:257-258; 12:47-48).

Richardson B. Geddy died intestate sometime prior to March 2, 1933, when all of his living children and heirs-at-law deeded their interest in White Hall to their mother, Mary Lucille Geddy. Excluded from the transaction was an 11 acre parcel that the late Richardson B. Geddy had sold to his neighbor, L. J. Haley, of La Grange and certain easements granted to the state highway department and for power lines (James City County Deed Book 20:67; 27:100-111). In 1960, after Mary Lucille Geddy's decease, her surviving heirs deeded their interest in White Hall to Bertrand Edward Geddy. At his death in 1975, his real and personal estate descended to his wife, Trittie Ware Geddy, from whom it passed to her son, Bertrand E. Geddy Jr., the current owner of record (James City County Will Book 13:506-514, 516).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section**   9   **Page**   8  

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James City County

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section** 10 **Page** 9

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**Boundary Description**

The proposed boundary embraces the entire Geddy property known as 3200 Rochambeau Drive and listed as James City County tax parcel #1220100008.

**Boundary Justification**

The proposed boundary embraces the entire Geddy property known as 3200 Rochambeau Drive and listed as James City County tax parcel #1220100008. It takes in all contributing structures, including the house, the barn, the workshop/storage building, and the garage, together with the front and side yards of the dwelling, the drive, and the surrounding fields.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**White Hall  
James City County, Virginia**

**Section** Photography Data **Page** 10

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All information is the same for the following photographs:

Whitehall, #047-0041

James City County, Virginia

Photos taken by Mark Wenger in June 2006

Negative Number: 22614

Negatives stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia

Photo 1 of 10: View from west of main house, frame 3

Photo 2 of 10: Tool house, frame 11

Photo 3 of 10: Stable, frame 12

Photo 4 of 10: Garage, frame 13

Photo 5 of 10: Rear of main house, frame 17

Photo 6 of 10: Interior stair, frame 23

Photo 7 of 10: Interior front room, first floor, frame 28

Photo 8 of 10: Interior detail of mantle, front room, first floor, frame 32

Photo 9 of 10: Interior mantle, front room, second floor, frame 34

Photo 10 of 10: Interior mantle, second room, second floor, frame 36